

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0721
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2299

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN, SW, MZ, AO
SUBJ: BRIEFING ON SWEDISH DELEGATION VISIT TO MAPUTO AND LUANDA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: GOS DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OLA ULLSTEN ATTENDED MAPUTO CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE MAY 16-21, THEN TRAVELLED TO LUANDA FOR TALKS WITH GOA MAY 22-24. EMBASSY OFFICER RECEIVED BRIEFING MAY 26 ON SWEDISH IMPRESSIONS FROM MFA OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED ULLSTEN (HEINEBACK), WHO SAID THE SWEDES CAME AWAY WITH A GENERALLY FAVOURABLE EVALUATION OF THE UN CONFERENCE, AND AN
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APPRECIATION OF ANGOLA'S SEVERE PROBLEMS AND NEED FOR ASSISTANCE.
END SUMMARY.

2. HEINEBACK SAID THAT THERE WAS GENERAL OPINION AMONG AFRICAN AND OTHER DELEGATIONS THAT THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE WAS A SUCCESS, ADDING "EVEN MUGABE" HAD SOME GOOD WORDS TO SAY. SWEDES WERE PLEASED WITH THE THEME OF RESTRAINT THEY FOUND, AND THOUGHT

THE EXERCISE WAS A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE. CONTRARY TO SPECULATION IN SWEDISH PRESS, PRESENCE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER PALME AND MINISTER ULLSTEN DID NOT GENERATE TENSION; RATHER THE ATMOSPHERE AMONG THE SOCIALIST AND NON-SOCIALIST SWEDES WAS COOPERATIVE AND FRIENDLY, WITH A STRONG SIMILARITY OF VIEWS.

3. HEINEBACK NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF THE STATE ATTRACTION IN MAPUTO. ASKED IF SWEDES HAD PRESEIVED TENOR OF "AFRICAN REACTION" TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TO THE EXTENT SUCH A GENERALITY EXISTS, HEINEBACK REPLIED THAT THE AFRICANS APPEAR TO RESPECT AND VALUE YOUNG'S ELOQUENCE AND SINCERE CONCERN, AND TO REGARD HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE REGION AS BENEFICIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. HEINEBACK ADDED, HOWEVER, THEY ALSO SEEM TO FEEL THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S RELIANCE ON THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN RACE RELATIONS IS NOT REALISTICALLY APPLICABLE TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. TURNING TO THE VISIT TO ANGOLA, HEINEBACK COMMENTED THAT THE UPSHOT OF THE VISIT WAS AN APPRECIATION THAT THE ANGOLANS "NEED EVERYTHING". HE HAD BEEN IN LUANDA A YEAR AGO, AND WAS SOMEWHAT DISMAYED THAT NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. THE CENTRAL CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE ANGOLANS, HE SAID, IS TO STABILIZE THE COUNTRY, TO BE LEFT ALONE AND TO GET ON WITH REBUILDING AN ECONOMY WHICH THEY ADMIT REMAINS SHATTERED. IN THAT REGARD, THE SWEDES FELT THAT THE ANGOLANS VIEW SWEDEN AS A DESIRABLE SOURCE OF WESTERN AID, BY WHICH THEY SEEK TO LOOSEN THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS, WHO ARE UNABLE TO SUPPLY THE ANGOLANS WITH WHAT THEY NEED, HEINEBACK SAID. THE ANGOLANS TOLD THE SWEDES THAT THEY ARE LEERY OF COOPERATING WITH SOME WESTERN

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COUNTRIES, SINGLING OUT FRANCE AS AN UNACCEPTABLE AID PARTNER.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF INTERNAL STABILITY AND THE CUBAN PRESENCE, THE ANGOLANS MADE NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE SEVERE PROBLEMS. THEY INSISTED THAT AS A SOVEREIGN NATION THEY HAVE THE UNDISPUTED RIGHT TO INVITE ASSISTANCE FROM THE CUBANS, WHO THEY MAINTAINED ARE AIDING IN THE RECONSTRUCTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY. WHEN HEINEBACK ASKED ONE OFFICIAL HOW MANY CUBANS WERE IN THE COUNTRY, HE REPLIED ONLY, "HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE IN GERMANY?" THE ANGOLANS EMPHASIZED, HEINEBACK SAID, THAT THEY ARE INDEPENDENT, THOUGH BECAUSE OF THEIR SITUATION THEY ARE DEPENDENT TO A LARGE DEGREE ON SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORT AND AID.

6. THE ANGOLANS FIRMLY DENIED ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE INVASION OF SHABA. THEY "HINTED" TO THE SWEDES, ACCORDING TO HEINEBACK, THAT THEY HAD INFORMED THE KATANGANS THAT ANY MOVE ON THEIR PART WOULD BE AT THEIR OWN RISK, AND NO ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. THE ANGOLANS INSISTED THAT THERE ARE NO

CUBANS OR ANGOLANS IN SHABA, AND THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE NORMAL, IF NOT WARM, RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE. THEY SKIRTED QUESTIONS ON USE OF ANGOLAN TERRITORY BY THE REBELS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. HEINEBACK NOTED THAT THE ANGOLANS ARE NOW FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF ADDITIONAL REFUGEES, LOCAL POPULACE AND REBELS ALIKE, FLEEING ACROSS THE BORDER BEFORE THE ZAIRIAN FORCES.

7. COMMENT: SWEDES CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ANGOLANS ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN REBUILDING THE ECONOMY, AND ARE CHAFING SOMEWHAT UNDER THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS. NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED, BUT THE SWEDES WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE SEVERITY OF ANGOLA'S PROBLEMS AND THE POTENTIAL OF THE COUNTRY. THE SWEDES APPARENTLY SEE POSSIBILITIES FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWEDISH INDUSTRY (VOLVO AND SCANIA, BOTH TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES, ARE CURRENTLY OPERATING THERE). AID MINISTER ULLSTEN COMMENTED SOMEWHAT CAUSTICALLY TO THE SWEDISH PRESS THAT "IF ANGOLA CAN CONFIDENTIAL

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SIGN SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH IMPOVERISH THEM (REFERRING TO A FISHING AGREEMENT WHICH GRANTS THE USSR 88 PERCENT OF THE PROFITS), THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH HONEST SWEDISH COMPANIES". THOUGH THE GOS HAS BEEN CRITICIZED RECENTLY BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION FOR NOT MAKING ANGOLA A "PROGRAM COUNTRY" FOR FOREIGN AID, WE NOTE THAT ANGOLA IS TO RECEIVE 50 MILLION SWEDISH CROWNS IN THE 77/78 PERIOD AND EXPECT THAT THE ANGOLA-SWEDISH CONNECTION WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND IN THE FUTURE. PERRY

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